

Application No. 10/731,409

Filed: December 9, 2003

TC Art Unit: 3677

Confirmation No.: 3924

IN THE FIGURES

Please replace the figures with the enclosed Replacement Figures. In FIG. 2, reference number "15" has been amended to read --13--. No new matter has been added. For the Examiner's convenience, a marked-up version of Sheet 2 of 2 is also provided.

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WEINGARTEN, SCHURGIN,  
GAGNERIN & LEDOVICI LLP  
TEL. (617) 542-2290  
FAX. (617) 451-0313

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FORMAL MATTERS

An Information Disclosure Statement was filed with the USPTO on November 28, 2005. The Applicants again respectfully request that the Examiner consider the references cited therein before issuing her next Office Action and, moreover, that the Examiner provide the Applicants with a copy of the Form PTO 1449 that has been duly initialed to indicate such consideration.

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 are pending within the application. Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Applicants have amended claim 1 above and canceled claim 2 without prejudice. Claims 3-5 have been newly added. Accordingly, after entry of this amendment, the pending claims will be claim 1 and claims 3-5. The amendment and new claims find support in the specification such that new matter has not been presented herein.

The above amendment to claim 1 should not be construed as acquiescence to the rejections by the Examiner and is provided solely to expedite the prosecution of the application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the claim as originally filed in the present or a separate application(s).

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections by the Examiner in view of the remarks presented herein.

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GAGNON & LEBOVITZ LLP  
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SECTION 102(e) REJECTIONS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2003/0230829 to Shiraishi, et al. ("Shiraishi").

Specifically, according to the Examiner, the Shiraishi reference discloses a "coupling structure between screw shaft (4) . . . The bearing sleeve has an annular groove at the inner periphery of an opening for the side of the screw and a ring member (3) (Figs. 1-4)." However, claim 1 is currently amended to recite an injection device, whereby "rotational movement of a screw shaft for driving an electric motor is converted to linear movement of the injection screw driving body", wherein the injection device includes, *inter alia*, a bearing sleeve for coupling a ball screw shaft to a motor shaft. Shiraishi does not teach, mention or suggest such features. Accordingly, rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn.

Shiraishi also does not teach, mention or suggest a bearing sleeve having an annular groove of having a integrally-formed flange for attaching the bearing sleeve to the motor shaft as recited in claim 1.

Finally, with respect to Shiraishi's "screw shaft and ring member (3)", the reference number (3) refers to a retainer. The retainer, however, does not "air-tightly seal[ ] a clearance formed between the screw shaft and the bearing sleeve" as recited by claim 1. Accordingly, rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

Based on the remarks presented herein, reconsideration and withdrawal of the finality of the Office Action and of the rejections by the Examiner and allowance of the application with the pending claims are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is also encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney so as to discuss any matter that would expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

KINJI YOKOYA ET AL.

By: 

Charles L. Gagnebin III  
Registration No. 25,467  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

WEINGARTEN, SCHURGIN,  
GAGNEBIN & LEOVICI LLP  
Ten Post Office Square  
Boston, MA 02109  
Telephone: (617) 542-2290  
Telecopier: (617) 451-0313

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